Status of Claims August 4, 2005

1. (currently amended) A seal assembly made of thermoplastic, for receiving different diameters of pipes, comprising:

a frame, adapted for forming a portion of ~~the~~ a wall of an article to which one of said pipes is to be connected;

at least two circles embossed on thermoplastic sheet material contained within the frame, comprising first embossed circle C1 having first radius R1, and second embossed circle C2 having second radius R2, which is greater than the first radius R1, wherein the space between said circles comprises a deformable region;

a multiplicity of weakened spots, spaced apart circumferentially around said deformable region;

wherein, when the plastic sheet material within said first circle is removed, to thereby create a hole having ~~with~~ a circumferential rim and a corresponding rim diameter at the location of circle C1, said rim diameter may be increased by axial and radial deformation of said deformable region, to receive a pipe diameter which is larger than the rim diameter.

2. (currently amended) The seal assembly of claim 1 wherein the circles C1 and C2 are eccentric and said deformable region is a crescent.

3. (currently amended) The seal assembly of claim 2, wherein said weakened spots comprise perforations concentrated in the wider portion of said~~the~~ crescent.

4. (currently amended) The seal assembly of claim 1 wherein said weakened spots comprise perforations having a rectangular shape, wherein the major axes of the ~~rectangles~~

perforations run substantially radially from approximately the location of the center of second circle C2.

5. (currently amended) The seal assembly of claim 1 wherein the weakened spots comprise perforations which ~~are~~ taper inwardly, so that each perforation opening on one side of the seal is larger than on the opposing side.

6. (currently amended) The seal assembly of claim 1 wherein the circles C1 and C2 are concentric and said deformable region is ring shaped.

7. (original) The seal assembly of claim 1 wherein said weakened spots are perforations having tapered sides, so that each perforation opening is wider on one surface on said deformable region than on the opposing surface.

8. (currently amended) The seal assembly of claim 1 further comprising, at least one additional embossed circle C3 having a radius R3 which is smaller than the first radius R1, contained within the circumference of the second circle C2.

9. (currently amended) The seal assembly of claim 1, further comprising an embossed pull tab, for removing of the material within the first circle C1 by tearing of the material along the first circle C1.

10. (currently amended) The seal assembly of claim 1 wherein said embossed first circle C1 is a V-shape groove.

11. (currently amended) The seal assembly of claim 8, further comprising embossed pull tabs, one each for removal by tearing of the material within the additional circle C3 and between ~~circles~~ the additional circle C3 and the first circle C1.

12. (currently amended) The seal assembly of claim 1~~10~~, comprised substantially of polypropylene material, the assembly having a region with a tear out portion defined by a groove; the groove having a vee-shape bottom with a small radius approximating a knife

edge; wherein, the material thickness at the bottom of the groove is equal to or less than about 0.01 inch.

13. (original) The seal assembly of claim 1, integrally molded into a leaching chamber, a distribution box for leaching system, or an accessory thereof.

14. (currently amended) The seal assembly of claim 1, made by injection molding of thermoplastic into a mold comprised of opposing cooled mold parts, wherein at least a portion of said embossed circles comprises a substantially V-shape groove~~, wherein the injection molding process comprises: positioning said opposing parts of the mold during injection of hot and soft plastic with a first spacing between the portions of the mold parts which define and form said groove in the seal, sufficient to enable softened plastic to flow around said mold parts; and then, while the injected plastic is still soft, changing the relative poisition of said mold parts, to decrease said first spacing, and to thereby form the finished groove in the seal assembly.~~

15. (currently amended) The seal assembly of claim 10~~11~~, comprised substantially of polypropylene material, wherein the V-shape groove has a small radius bottom approximating a knife edge; wherein, the material thickness at the bottom of the groove is equal to or less than than about 0.0.1 inch.

16. (currently amended) In a~~the~~ method of sealing a pipe which runs through a hole in a seal assembly, to inhibit movement of soil from~~for~~ the exterior to the interior of the seal assembly, wherein the seal assembly includes a sheet portion surrounding said hole, and wherein said~~which~~ portion is comprised of material which deforms when the pipe is inserted in said hole, the improvement which comprises: providing a multiplicity of circumferentially spaced apart weakened spots around at least part of said portion, near said hole, so that the when said sheet portion is deformed, deformation is concentrated in localized regions adjacent said weakened spots.

17. (withdrawn) The method of forming a groove in an injection molded article of a thermoplastic material by means of a projection of part of the mold into the article defining cavity of the mold, wherein the spacing between said projection and an opposing part of the mold prevents ordinary filling of the mold, which comprises:

providing a mold having

a first mold part which comprises said projection;
a second mold part opposing and spaced apart from said projection;
wherein the spacing between the first and second parts, in vicinity of said projection is changeable by movement of at least one of the mold parts;

injecting said softened hot thermoplastic material into mold while spacing apart the mold parts sufficient to enable plastic to flow by and around said projection;

moving said mold parts closer together, to deform and shape said thermoplastic so the desired article is formed; and,

opening the mold parts and removing the article from the mold.

18. (withdrawn) The method of claim 17, wherein the spacing between said projection and the opposing mold part is less than about 0.1 inch.